

A reading from the book of Genesis

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. God said, "Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth." God created man in the image of himself, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be

masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth." God said, "See, I give you all the seed-bearing plants that are upon the whole earth, and all the trees with seed-bearing fruit; this shall be your food. To all wild beasts, all birds of heaven and all living reptiles on the earth I give all the foliage of plants for food." and so it was. God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The cantor sings the response which the people repeat.



Ps 103

(Tone B.)



1. Bless the **Lord**, my soul!
Lord God, how **great** you are
clothed in **majesty** and glory,
wrapped in light as **in** a robe! (R)
2. You founded the earth **on** its base,
to stand firm from **age** to age.
You wrapped it with the ocean **like** a cloak;
the waters stood higher **than** the mountains. (R)
3. You make springs gush forth
in the valleys:
they flow in **between** the hills.
On their banks swell the **birds** of heaven:
from the branches they **sing** their song. (R)
4. From your dwelling you **water** the hills;
earth drinks its fill **of** your gift.
You make the grass grow **for** the cattle
and the plants to **serve** man's needs. (R)
5. How many are your **works**, O Lord!
In wisdom you have **made** them all.
The earth is full **of** your riches.
Bless the **Lord**, my soul! (R)

**PRAYER AFTER THE FIRST READING**

Let us pray.

Pause for silent prayer.

Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God,
who are wonderful in the ordering of all your works,
may those you have redeemed understand
that there exists nothing more marvellous
than the world's creation in the beginning
except that, at the end of the ages,
Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

SECOND READING

14.15-15,1

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me so? Tell the sons of Israel to march on. For yourself, raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and part it for the sons of Israel to walk through the sea on dry ground. I for my part will make the heart of the Egyptians so stubborn that they will follow them. So shall I win myself glory at the expense of Pharaoh, of all his army, his chariots, his horsemen. And when I have won glory for myself, at the expense of Pharaoh and his chariots and his army, the Egyptians will learn that I am the Lord."

Then the angel of the Lord, who marched at the front of the army of Israel, changed station and moved to their rear. The pillar of cloud changed station from the front to the rear of them, and remained there. It came between the camp of the

Egyptians and the camp of Israel. The cloud was dark, and the night passed without the armies drawing any closer the whole night long.

Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove back the sea with a strong easterly wind all night, and he made dry land of the sea. The waters parted and the sons of Israel went on dry ground right into the sea, walls of water to right and to left of them. The Egyptians gave chase: after them they went, right into the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. In the morning watch, the Lord looked down on the army of the Egyptians from the pillar of fire and of cloud, and threw the army into confusion. He so clogged their chariot wheels that they could scarcely make headway. "Let us flee from the Israelites," the Egyptians cried "the Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians!"

"Stretch out your hand over the sea," the Lord said to Moses" that the waters may flow back on the Egyptians and their chariots and their horsemen." Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and, as

day broke, the sea returned to its bed. The fleeing Egyptians marched right into it, and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the very middle of the sea. The returning waters overwhelmed the chariots and the horsemen of Pharaoh's whole army, which had followed the Israelites into the sea; not a single one of them was left. But the sons of Israel had marched through the sea on dry ground, walls of water to right and to left of them.

That day, the Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. Israel witnessed the great act that the Lord had performed against the Egyptians, and the people venerated the Lord; they put their faith in the Lord and in Moses, his servant.

It was then that Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song in honour of the Lord:

The cantor takes up the Responsorial Psalm immediately.

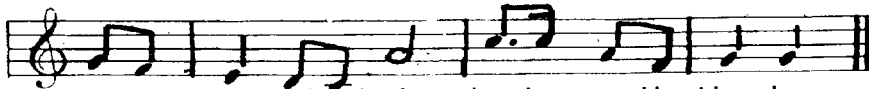
RESPONSORIAL PSALM III

The cantor sings the response which the people repeat.



Exodus 15.1-6.17-18

(Tone B.)



I will sing to the Lord ; glo - ri - ous his tri-umph.

1. I will sing to the Lord, **glorious** his triumph!
Horse and rider he has thrown **into** the sea!
The Lord is my strength, my song, **my** salvation.
This is my God and I extol him,
my father's God and I **give** him praise. (R)
2. The Lord is a warrior! The Lord **is** his name.
The chariots of Pharaoh he hurled **into** the sea.
the flower of his army is drowned **in** the sea.
The deeps hide them, they sank **like** a stone. (R)
3. Your right hand, Lord, glorious **in** its power.
your right hand, Lord, has **shattered** the enemy.
In the greatness **of** your glory
you **crushed** the foe. (R)
4. You will lead them and plant them **on** your
mountain,
the place, O Lord, where you have **made** your
home,
the sanctuary, Lord, which your **hands** have
made.
The Lord will reign for **ever** and ever. (R)

PRAYER AFTER THE SECOND READING

Let us pray.

O God, whose ancient wonders remain undimmed in splendour even in our day, for what you once bestowed on a single people, freeing them from Pharaoh's persecution by the power of your right hand now you bring about as the salvation of the nations through the waters of rebirth,

grant, we pray, that the whole world may become children of Abraham and inherit the dignity of Israel's birthright. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.